



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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FIRST-EVER CORPORATE WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO ARKLA

The Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, John Turner, today presented officials of one of America's largest natural gas pipeline companies, Arkla, Inc., with the Service's first-ever "Corporate Wildlife Stewardship Award" in recognition of wildlife conservation efforts undertaken by the company during installation of a major natural gas pipeline.

This is the first in a series of awards to be made by the Service to recognize efforts on the part of corporations operating in the United States to enhance this Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

The award was presented to Arkla's Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Mack McLarty, at a meeting of the American Gas Association's Natural Gas Roundtable in Washington, D.C.

Arkla's award cites the firm's achievements in working with the Service during pipeline construction to lessen impacts on fish and wildlife resources along the pipeline route, which spanned over 225 miles from eastern Oklahoma to central Arkansas.

Arkla invested nearly \$4 million during the project to preserve wetlands and scenic waterways, avoid impact on endangered species, and minimize disturbance to shorelines and forest habitats.

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Arkla, Inc., is a diversified natural gas company engaged in natural gas production, transmission, and distribution, headquartered in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

"Arkla's commitment to conserving America's fish and wildlife resources during this project was exemplary and will serve as a model for others," said Service Director John Turner. "The care it took during pipeline construction reflects industry's increasing willingness to work with government on behalf of our natural resources. Arkla has demonstrated that planning, common sense, and a cooperative spirit can bring fantastic results for everyone involved and be a real boon for wildlife."

In accepting the award, McLarty said, "Arkla approaches a project like this in an environmentally sensitive manner, exploring ways not only to protect the natural resources encountered but enhance them where possible."

The firm, after consultation with the Service, incorporated a number of wildlife conservation measures into the planning and implementation phases of the project. To lessen the environmental impact of crossing sensitive areas, Arkla changed the route of the pipeline several times. The company also bridged two river crossings to avoid disturbance to the threatened leopard darter, and conducted additional surveys at sites thought to be inhabited by this rare fish and other endangered species.

Measures also were taken to minimize disturbance of scenic river habitat and reroute the pipeline to minimize forest fragmentation. In areas where forest habitat had to be affected by the pipeline, Arkla purchased similar acreage and provided funds to maintain and enhance it as a wildlife habitat and nature preserve.

The pipeline project lauded by Director Turner, called "Line AC," will carry 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas daily from eastern Oklahoma primarily to other pipelines serving the Midwest and Northeast.

The pipeline went into service November 1, 1990, at a construction cost of \$240 million. Major pipeline participants in Arkla's project include ANR pipeline, Texas Gas Transmission, Tenneco Gas, and Columbia Gas.